



U.S. Department of Justice

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For Information Contact:**

**Public Affairs**

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc>

### **District co-defendants found guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon and related gun possession charges**

**Washington, D.C.** - A 28-year-old District of Columbia man, Kevin Ayers, and his brother, 27-year-old Lee Ayers, also of the District of Columbia, were found guilty by a Superior Court jury of assault with a dangerous weapon and related weapons offenses today, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips announced. The Honorable John M. Mott presided over the trial and will sentence the Ayers brothers on September 10, 2009.

According to evidence presented at trial, on August 16, 2008, in the early evening, the defendants became involved in an altercation with several other men in the 1400 Block of Fairmont Street, N.W. After guns were fired from the western end of the block, adjacent to the playground and basketball court at Girard Park, the Ayers brothers set themselves up in offensive positions at the eastern end of the block, along with another associate. The Ayers brothers and the associate then proceeded to fire twenty-seven rounds towards the western end of the street, while individuals fired back at them. Lee Ayers was struck in the hand during the exchange. Kevin Ayers ran from the scene after throwing away a Colt .38 revolver and a Glock 17 pistol, and was apprehended soon after. Lee Ayers was subsequently arrested, and in his possession was a Glock 27 pistol, which matched ballistics evidence linked to the associate, along with rounds of ammunition for a Colt .38.

In addition to the assault with a dangerous weapon charges, the defendants were found guilty of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime of Violence, Carrying a Pistol Without a License by a Felon in a Gun Free Zone, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm

by a Person Previously Convicted of a Felony. Kevin Ayers faces an additional possible sentencing enhancement as he was on release in another case at the time of the offense.

In announcing today's verdict, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips commended the Metropolitan Police Department's Third District. He also praised MPD Detective Antoine Weston, Investigators Gabriel Truby and Amber Chelsea, Officers Mary Wise, Tom Coughlin, Farid Fawzi, John Allie, Travis Eagan, Joseph Boehler, Mocte'ma Stevens, and Michael Johnson, along with Daniel Barrett of the Firearms Section, and Clinton Hall of the Latent Fingerprint Section. He also applauded the work of paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, and litigation services specialist Thomas Royal. Lastly, Mr. Phillips thanked Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeff Pearlman, who investigated and tried the case, and Erin Lyons, who co-tried the case.

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